DECLASSIFIED

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

Pol 14 VIET-S

ACS

CONFIDENTIAL

48
Action
FE

EXCISE 2 2688

1966 AUG 24 AM 10 57

E

August 4 331

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [illegible] DATE 10/6/11
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

Info
SS
G
SP
H
IO
P
USIA
NSC
INR
CIA
NSA
DOD
AID

RSR

TPYEKVV MJA891JIA772
RR RUEHC
DE RUMJIR 4339 2361340
ZNY CCCCC
R 241123Z AUG 66
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUHLHQ/CINCPAC
ZEN/AMCONSUL DANANG
ZEN/AMCONSUL HUE
STATE GRNC
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 4339

AUG 24

SUBJ: CONSTITUENT ASSUMBLY ELECTION

1. OF THREE PROVINCES TUYEN DUC, LAM DONG AND QUANG DUC AND CITY OF DALAT (LOCATED IN TUYEN DUC), ONLY TUYEN DUC/DALAT ELECTIONS LIKELY TO BE OF ANY SIGNIFICANCE. ONLY ONE CANDIDATE RUNNING FOR ONE SEAT IN LAM DONG AND THREE UNDISTINGUISED CANDIDATES VYING FOR ONE SEAT IN SPARSELY-POPULATED QUANG DUC. FOR DALAT-TUYEN DUC AREA, TWENTY-ONE CANDIDATES COMPETING FOR TOTAL OF FOUR SEATS: ONE VIETNMAESE SEAT FOR DALAT, ONE VIETNAMESE SEAT FOR TUYEN DUC, ONE SEAT FOR CENTRAL HIGHLANDERS, AND ONE SEAT FOR NORTHERN TRIBES. OF TOTAL SIX SEATS, MILITARY CANDIDATES WILL PROBABLY

WIN ONLY TWO TWO MONTAGNARD SEATS. OTHER FOUR SEATS WILL PROBABLY GO TO ONE CIVIL SERVANT AND THREE MEMBERS OF PROVINCIAL OR MUNICIPAL COUNCILS.

2. SOME ANTI-ELECTION ACTIVITY ALREADY REPORTED, PRIMARILY ON PART OF VC. VC HAVE PROPAGANDIZED THAT (A) FOLLOWERS SHOULD NOT VOTE, (B) THEY WILL SABOTAGE TALKS BY CANDIDATES AND THEREBY DISCOURAGE VOTERS, (C) THEY WILL ASSASSINATE CANDIDATES, AND (D) THEY WILL SABOTAGE VOTING BOOTHS AND USE

MICROFILMED BY RSR
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

OTHER MEANS TO DISRUPT ELECTIONS. THUS FAR, VC ACTIVITY IN THREE-PROVINCE AREA ONLY IN PROPAGANDA STAGE, EXCEPT FOR BURNING OF ELECTORS CARDS, VOTING LISTS AND OTHER CONTENTS OF VILLAGE OFFICE ON OUTSKIRTS OF DALAT NIGHT AUG 19 WHICH POSSIBLY PERPETRATED BY VC. THREE-PROVINCE AREA HAS LARGE NUMBER OF NORTHERN CATHOLICS. BUDDHISTS NOT VERY WELL ORGANIZED OR PRESENTLY ACTIVE. SOME TRACTS FROM "FRONT OF ALL RELIGIONS" HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED THROUGH PAGODAS BUT AMERICANS AND VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS IN THOSE PROVINCES DOUBT THAT BUDDHIST- AND FRONT-LED BOYCOTT WILL AMOUNT TO MUCH.

3. VIETNAMESE ACTIVITY IN PUBLICIZING ELECTIONS ON UPSWING IN THREE-PROVINCE AREA BUT FEW PEOPLE IN RURAL AREAS REPORTEDLY FULLY AWARE OF IMMINENCE OF ELECTIONS AND THEIR IMPORT. INTEREST SHOULD INCREASE AS CAMPAIGN PERIOD BEGINS.

4. VIRTUALLY ALL POPULATED AREA IN TUYEN DUC ACCESSIBLE BY ROAD, MAKING JOB OF ELECTION OFFICIALS RELATIVELY EASY. IN LAM DONG, EIGHT TO NINE THOUSAND MONTAGNARDS WERE RESETTLED IN RECENT MONTHS AROUND TWO DISTRICT CENTERS, EFFECTIVELY INCREASING NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO WILL BE ABLE TO VOTE. IN QUANG DUC, SIMILAR NUMBER ALSO RESETTLED IN PAST SIX MONTHS AROUND DISTRICT TOWNS; HELICOPTERS WILL BE REQUIRED FOR TRAVEL FROM PROVINCE CAPITAL TO DISTRICT TOWNS, BUT NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS HAS INCREASED BY ABOUT 25 PERCENT OVER 1965.

5. DALAT CITY. SEVEN CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR SINGLE SEAT. ONE OTHER WAS ISQUALIFIED ON GROUNDS OF CONTACT WITH VC. GENERAL VINH LOC, II CORPS COMMANDER, REPORTEDLY TRIED TO ADD THREE MILITARY CANDIDATES AFTER APPLICATION PERIOD OVER BUT THIS SUCCESSFULLY RESISTED BY MAYORESS AND MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

6. NGUYEN DUY QUANG, 51, IS LIKELIEST WINNER ACCORDING INFORMED VIETNAMESE. HE IS NORTHERNER, BUDDHIS, DRUGGIST, AND CHAIRMAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL. DESCRIBED BY SEVERAL AS OPPORTUNIST WHICH MAY

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

ACCOUNT FOR SOME REPORTS INDICATING HE PARTICIPATED IN RECENT STRUGGLE MOVEMENT IN DALAT WHEN STRUGGLE AT ITS HEIGHT. HE IS ARTICULATE AND INTELLIGENT AND EVIDENTLY WELL KNOWN THROUGHOUT COMMUNITY.

7. OTHER FRONT RUNNERS PROBABLY TRNA QUANG KHAI AND LE THANH CHAU. KHAI IS ONE OF OLDEST CANDIDATES ANYWHERE IN COUNTRY (BORN 1888). HE IS CONFUCIANIST, NORTHERNER, FORMER MANDARIN AT ROYAL COURT, AND CHAIRMAN OF EARLIER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL. CHAU, 28, NORTHERNER, IS DALAT HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER AND PROBABLY, ACCORDING MAYORESS, HAS CATHOLIC SUPPORT. OTHER FOUR CANDIDATES ARE MANAGER OF PASTEUR INSTITUTE; MERCHANT; CIVIL SERVANT; AND RETIRED ARVN OFFICER.

8. TUYEN DUC VIETNAMESE SEAT. ALL FOUR CANDIDATES WHO APPLIED WERE CERTIFIED. RACE PROBABLY BETWEEN HOANG CO BINH AND NGUYEN VAN CHIU. BINH, LAST MAYOR OF HANOI, IS MEMBER SAIGON MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, AND GENERALLY EXPERIENCED, CAPABLE POLITICIAN. HE IS DESCRIBED AS [redacted] NATIONALIST. CHIU, 55, BUDDHIST, NORTHERNER, IS HEADMASTER OF PRIVATE SCHOOL IN DALAT AND MEMBER PROVINCE COUNCIL. NGUYEN HUU HIEP MAY POSSIBLY MAKE STRONG SHOWING AS WELL. HIEP IS 25, CATHOLIC, AND HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER IN DALAT. LAST CANDIDATE IS TRAN DOAN LUONG, 36, NORTHERNER, CATHOLIC AND CHIEF OF AGRICULTURE SERVICE IN TUYEN DUC.

b-1
2d

9. CENTRAL MONTAGNARD SEAT FOR TUYEN DUC. OF THE THREE CANDIDATES, NONE OUTSTANDING. PROBABLE WINNER CAPT. LE SON CUONG AKA (RPT AKA) YA KUONG, TUYEN DUC REPRESENTATIVE OF COMMISSARIAT FOR MONTAGNARD AFFAIRS. OTHER CANDIDATES ARE TOUNCH TON, JUSPAO LOCAL, AND PANGTING K'TE, MALE NURSE AT DALAT HOSPITAL.

10. MONTAGNARDS HAVE ALREADY SELECTED 166 ELECTORS WHO, ALONG WITH 281 ELECTED MEMBERS

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

OF PROVINCIAL AND VILLAGE TRIBAL COUNCILS, HAMLET CHIEFS AND DEPUTY HAMLET CHIEFS, WILL MEET SEPT 11 AT PROVINCE HEADQUARTERS TO CHOOSE DEPUTY.

11. NORTHERN TRIBAL SEAT FOR TUYEN DUC. SIX CANDIDATES. LIKELY WINNER IS COLONEL DAM VAN QUY, 39, FORMER PROVINCE CHIEF BINH THUAN AND REGIMENTAL COMMANDER NOW STATIONED SAIGON. OTHERS ARE CAPTAIN LUONG VAN HOI, OF DALAT MILITARY ACADEMY; NUNG GIUNG TSANG, MERCHANT; DEO VAN AT, DEPUTY DISTRICT CHIEF OF BAN ME THUOT DISTRICT IN DARLAC PROVINCE; NONG MINH HONG, MERCHANT; AND TRUONG VAN VINH, RETIRED CIVIL SERVANT.

12. NORTHERN MONTAGNARDS SELECTED 50 ELECTORS WHO, WITH 15 OTHER ELECTED MONTAGNARD PROVINCIAL, VILLAGE AND HAMLET OFFICIALS, WILL CHOSE DEPUTY ON SEPT 11.

13. LAMDONG. SOLE CANDIDATE IS NGUYEN HUU TRI, 51, NORTHERN CATHOLIC, TEA PLANTER AND CHAIRMAN PROVINCE COUNCIL. TRI IS ARTICULATE AND INTELLIGENT AND PROBABLY WILL MAKE CAPABLE REPRESENTATIVE. TRI DECLINED TO INDICATE TO EMBOFF NATURE OF SUBJECTS HE WOULD COVER IN CAMPAIGN.

14. PROVINCE CHIEF WAS SEVERELY CRITICIZED BY VINH LOC FOR NOT HAVING ENCOURAGED OTHER CANDIDATES TO RUN.

15. QUANG DUC. PROVINCE CHIEF BELIEVES PROBABLE WINNER IS NGUYEN TINH THUAT, PROVINCE ECONOMIC CHIEF. THUAT, 40, IS REPORTED TO BE REASONABLY ABLE ADMINISTRATOR BUT QUANG DUC IS USUALLY REGARDED AS GRAVEYARD FOR CIVIL SERVANTS BECAUSE IT IS SMALLEST IN POPULATION AND GVN CONTROLS VERY LITTLE OF GEOGRAPHY. HE IS GRADUATE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ADMINISTRATION AND WAS FORMERLY DEPUTY PROVINCE CHIEF OF PHUOC LONG. PROVINCE CHIEF BELIEVES HE WILL WIN BECAUSE (A) HE IS SUPPORTED BY CATHOLICS, (B) MILITARY AND OFFICIALS WILL SUPPORT HIM, (C) HE IS NOWN THROUGHOUT PROVINCE. OTHER CANDIDATES ARE TRAN CUONG AND VUONG SON THONG. CUONG IS TEACHER AND CHAIRMAN OF PROVINCE COUNCIL BUT VERY YOUNG (26) AND APPARENTLY LITTLE KNOWN. THONG IS LIKEABLE BUT OBSCURE LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHER. LODGE

CONFIDENTIAL